

**From:** Schmidt, Jeff  
**To:** 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'  
**Date:** 1/11/02 12:10am  
**Subject:** Sentencing of Microsoft

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to make a few comments regarding the possible sentence being brought about against Microsoft. This possible sentence is letting Microsoft off with barely a slap on the wrist. In doing so, you are sending a signal to Microsoft that monopolies are fine as long as you're big enough. This is enabling them to keep their strangle-hold on the computer users of the world and stifling the competition in the computer operating system market. This lack of competition has yeilded low quality, over prices products on the part of Microsoft. Their Windows operating system has deteriorated over the years to being a poorly "slapped together" product. The number of security leaks has increased dramatically. This is making the lives of people more vulnerable to criminals. How are we to feel safe shopping online. What about our personal information, and the safety of our families. I don't know who may be seeing my personal information. I don't know who may be talking to my family members. All of this is because of Microsoft's "get it out there, and we'll fix the problems when they arise" attitude. And where does this attitude come from? From the fact that they know that they don't have to worry about the competition of other operating systems. I realize that Linux has grasped a decent, although still less respectable, peice of the server market, but that still doesn't cover the home user and their information. If Microsoft is let off with a light sentence, they will continue to release poorly put together, unsecure operating systems. And because of their current market share, they are able to drag the public down any road, safe or unsafe, they want. Please, do not let Microsoft continue to be incontrol of the lives of computer users. They seem to have proven they are not trust worthy to make a quality, secure product. Thank you.

Jeff Schmidt  
Former Windows user, recently switched to Linux.